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THE SAGA OF JOHNNY BLAZE: Once, not so long ago, he was the pawn of Satan. He has since been freed. But, for reasons he cannot yet comprehend, he still possesses Satan-spawned strength and the searing touch of hell fire. Whether these supernatural powers are a blessing or a curse, he does not know. Yet.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE GHOST RIDER!™

I, THE ENFORCER...!

MOMENTS AGO, THE UNCANNY GHOST RIDER DUELED THE ASSASSIN CALLED THE WATER WIZARD HERE ON THE GROUNDS OF DELAZNY ESTATE, SENDING HIS FOE FLEEING, SWATHED IN SOUL-SEARING MYSTIC FIRE EVEN AS HE FELL.
AS CONSCIOUSNESS EBBED, SO TOO DID THE HELL-SPAWNED MIGHT OF THE GHOST RIDER.
YOU WERE A FOOL TO COME HERE, BLAZE--AND IT'S GOING TO COST YOU YOUR LIFE!
THUS JOHNNY BLAZE LAY HELPLESS ON THE SOFT, DAMP GRASS AS THE STARK FIGURE OF CHARLES L. DELAZNY APPROACHED.
AND NOW, THE STRICKEN CYCLIST'S DANGER IS FAR GREATER AND MORE SINISTER THAN EVER BEFORE!
JIM SHOOTER / SCRIPT
DON HECK / PENCILS
DAN GREEN / INKS
DENISE VOIGT / LETTERER
K. KLACZAK / COLORIST
A. GOODWIN / EDITOR

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YOU HAVE QUITE A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC DELAZNY! NO WONDER DELAZNY STUDIOS MAKES SO MUCH MONEY!
THE ENFORCER! I KNEW THIS WAS YOUR DOING!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? BLAZE IS ONE OF MY STUDIO'S STUNTMEN! WHY DID YOU--OR WAS IT YOUR THUGS--ATTACK HIM ON MY LAWN?
I USED TO BELIEVE HE WAS MERELY A STUNTMAN, TOO! IN FACT, HE IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS MEN ALIVE!
WHY HERE? BLAST IT! YOU SAID YOU'D STAY AWAY FROM ME IF I PAID YOUR PRICE!
BECAUSE HE WORKS FOR YOU I GUESSED THAT HE MIGHT HAVE LEARNED OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH ME AND COME HERE TO QUESTION YOU! SO I ARRANGED AN AMBUSH!
ENOUGH! THE ENFORCER DOES AS HE PLEASES!!
YOU'RE A FAMILY MAN, DELAZNY! IF YOU LIKE YOUR FAMILY HEALTHY YOU'LL KEEP YOUR TRAP SHUT!
I'I'M SORRY, I--
I COULD ELIMINATE THEM WITHOUT A TRACE WITH A BLAST LIKE THIS FROM MY DISINTEGRATOR RING!
OH, MY, ...GOD!
YOUR SON IS IN COLLEGE NOW, ISN'T HE? IT WOULD BE TOO BAD IF HIS YOUNG LIFE WERE CUT SHORT!
THE ONE REAL DEBT I OWE THE WATER WIZARD IS FOR HIS HELP IN RECOVERING MY RING--

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--FROM SAN DIEGO HARBOR WHERE I LOST IT IN MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THE GHOST RIDER! WITH MY RING BACK, I'M INVINCIBLE AGAIN!
SEEN ENOUGH, DELAZNY?
YES!
GOOD. NOW I'LL LEAVE--
--BUT... I HAVE AN IDEA! THAT MOTORCYCLE IN YOUR GARAGE--YOUR SON'S, RIGHT? I'M TAKING IT! IN ABOUT AN HOUR YOU'LL REPORT IT STOLEN! UNDERSTAND?
Y-YES!
LATER, ON THE BRINK OF A PICTURE-POSTCARD CLIFF, HIGH ABOVE THE BOULDER-STREWN FRINGE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN--
--A FAMILIAR CADILLAC LIMO IS PARKED... AND PREPARATIONS ARE MADE FOR MURDER!
DIS HERE IS A NICE BIKE, BOSS. REMINDS ME OF A HAWG I SWIPED WHEN I WAS A KID! Y'KNOW WE COULD FENCE DIS FER A NICE PIECE O' CHANGE!
WHY DON'T WE JUST--
SHUT UP, GALTON! AND HURRY WITH THOSE ROPES.
BLAZE IS THE GHOST RIDER, FOOL!
IF HE WAKES UP WHILE YOU'RE WASTING TIME, YOU MAY REGRET EVER BEING ALIVE!
LIKE OUR POOR STUPID WATER WIZARD, HERE! WHEN I FOUND HIM FLEEING AFTER HIS ENCOUNTER WITH BLAZE, HE WAS BURNING WITH COLD FIRE--AND SCREAMING AS IF HE WERE BEING DRAGGED THROUGH THE PITS OF HELL!
HE STILL HASN'T RECOVERED!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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You've tangled with the Hungries before. They sneak up behind you at the library, and make your stomach growl until your face turns red. They strike when you're halfway home from school, at least ten minutes from the nearest sandwich.

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Joe proudly poses with his famous pupil, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mr. Olympia winner.

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IF I COULD LEARN THE SECRET OF BLAZE'S POWER... OR MAKE HIM SERVE ME, SOMEHOW...
...BUT HE'S TOO DANGEROUS! EVERY SECOND HE LIVES, MY PLANS ARE IN JEOPARDY!
BLAST IT, GALTON! HURRY UP!
OKAY, BOSS! HE'S READY!
GOOD! START THE BIKE AND SEND HIM OFF!
"SURE THING, ENFORCER. I GOT THE THROTTLE LOCKED OPEN, AN' THE KEY ON. ALL I GOT TO DO IS HIT THE STARTER BUTTON!"
BARELY-MUTED THUNDER PEALS FROM THE TWIN PIPES OF THE MODIFIED TXT50, AS ITS SIXTY-ODD HORSEPOWER THRUSTS IT TOWARD THE EDGE, SPITTING DUST AND GRAVEL FROM THE REAR TIRE'S TREADS...
VRRRREEE!
"COULD'A MADE A NICE PIECE O' CHANGE OFFA THAT RIG," GALTON MUTTERS AS THE DRIVING DUNLOP BITES AIR AND THE SHRIEK OF THE SUDDENLY UNBURDENED ENGINE DROWNS OUT ALL OTHER NOISE.

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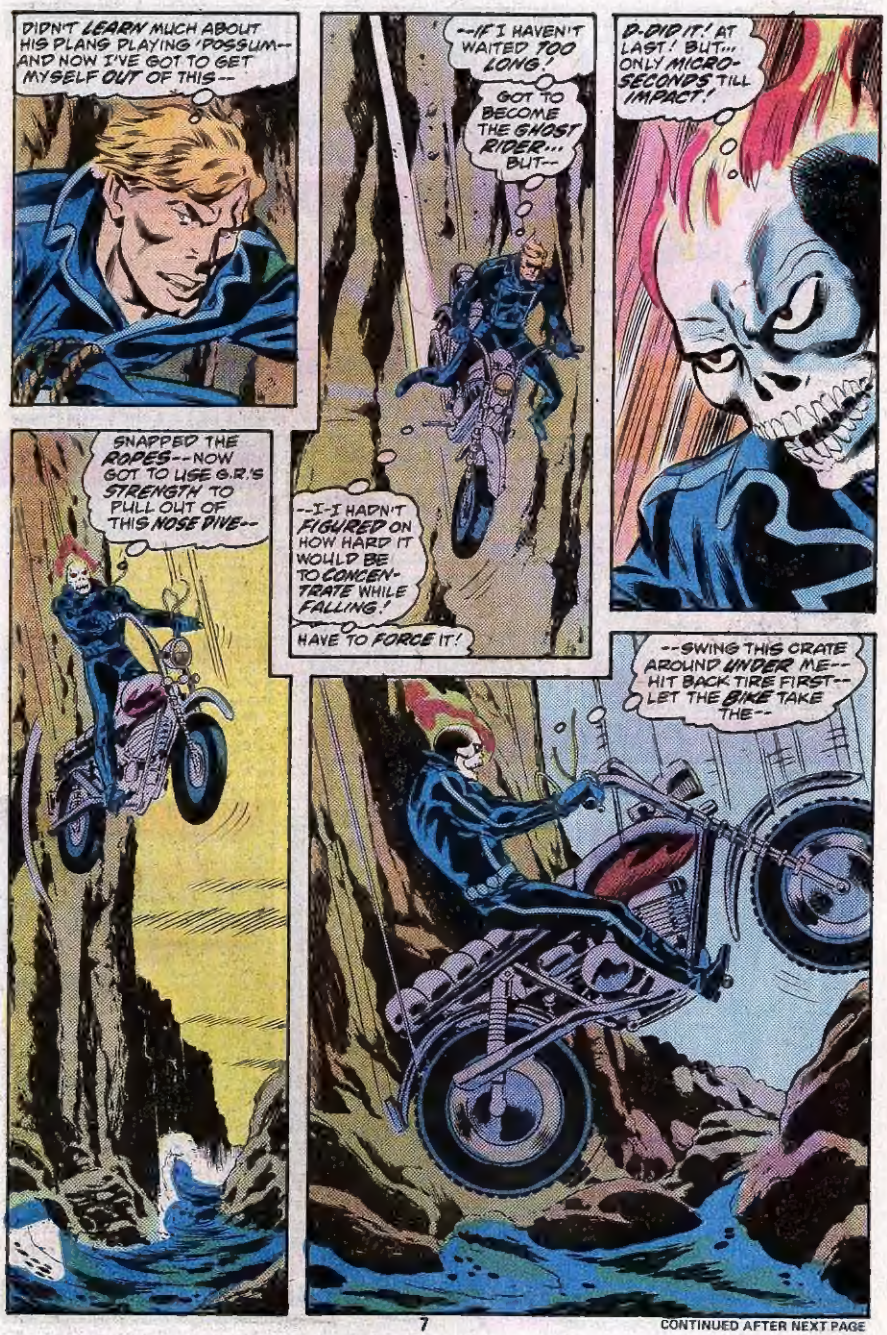
DIDN'T LEARN MUCH ABOUT HIS PLANS PLAYING 'POSSUM-- AND NOW I'VE GOT TO GET MYSELF OUT OF THIS--
--IF I HAVEN'T WAITED TOO LONG!
GOT TO BECOME THE GHOST RIDER... BUT--
--I-I HADN'T FIGURED ON HOW HARD IT WOULD BE TO CONCENTRATE WHILE FALLING!
HAVE TO FORCE IT!
D-DID IT! AT LAST! BUT... ONLY MICRO-SECONDS TILL IMPACT!
SNAPPED THE ROPES--NOW GOT TO USE G.R.'S STRENGTH TO PULL OUT OF THIS NOSE DIVE--
--SWING THIS CRATE AROUND UNDER ME-- HIT BACK TIRE FIRST-- LET THE BIKE TAKE THE--

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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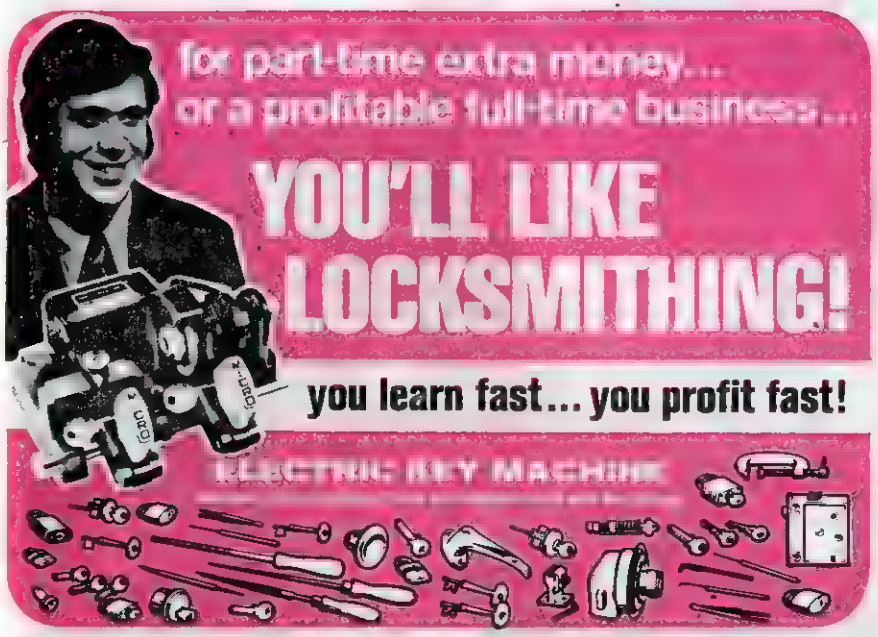
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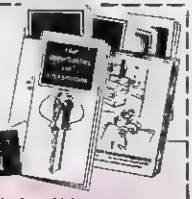

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"--IMPACT!"
BLAM!
DID YOU SEE THAT, GALTON? HE--HE TRANSFORMED ON THE WAY DOWN!
YEAH, AN' HE BUSTED LOOSE AND TWISTED THE BIKE AROUND!
AND LANDED LIKE A STUNT-JUMPER DOES--NOT THAT IT COULD HAVE SAVED HIM--
--EVEN IF THE GAS TANK HADN'T BLOWN!
BOSS, YOU DON'T THINK--I MEAN, HE COULDN'T HAVE--
GALTON, YOU IDIOT, NOBODY--NO MAN COU..D LIVE THROUGH A CRASH LIKE THAT!
NO MAN, INDEED..
THE... GHOST RIDER... STILL ...WALKS THE ...EARTH!
...AND THE... ENFORCER... WILL PAY DEARLY... FOR ...THIS DEED!

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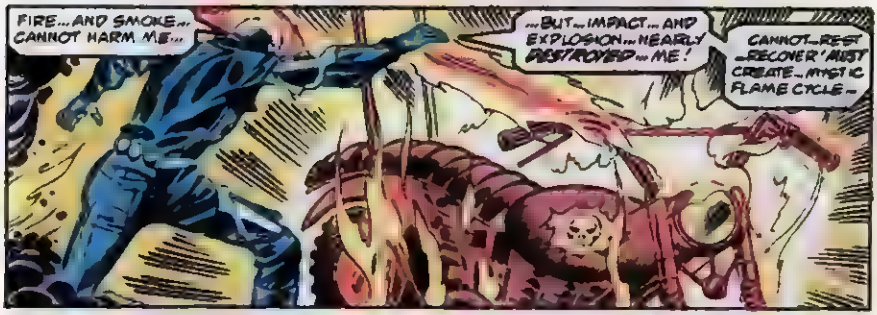
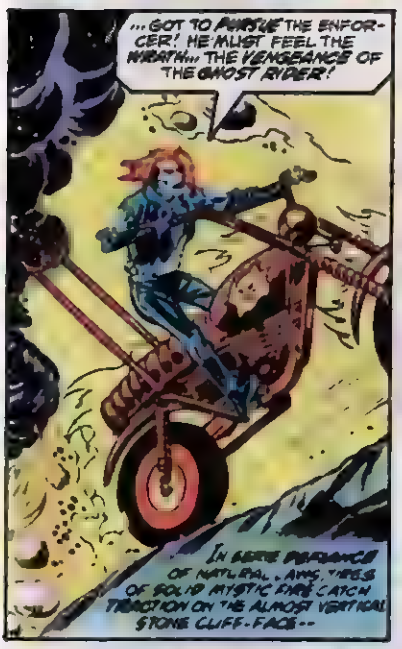
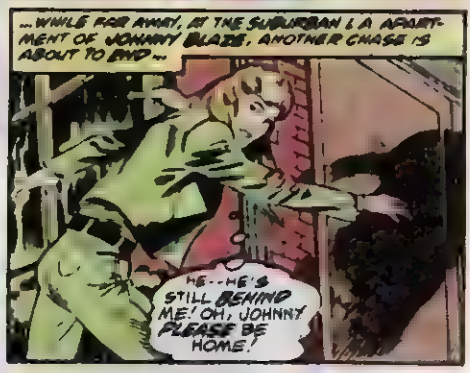
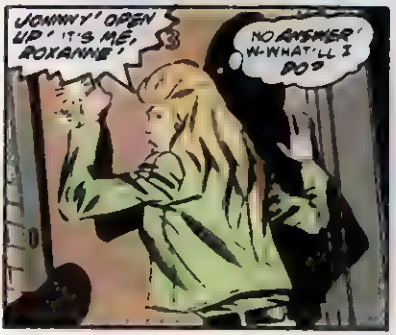
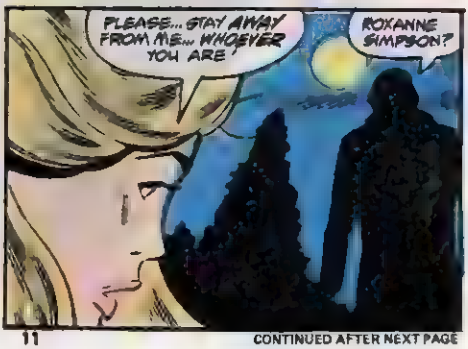

FIRE... AND SMOKE... CANNOT HARM ME...
...BUT... IMPACT... AND EXPLOSION... HEARLY DESTROYED... ME!
CANNOT... REST ...RECOVER! MUST CREATE... MYSTIC FLAME CYCLE...


...GOT TO PURSUE THE ENFORCER! HE MUST FEEL THE WRATH... THE VENGEANCE OF THE GHOST RIDER!
IN SPITE PERFORMANCE OF NATURAL LAWS, TIRES OF SOLID MYSTIC FIRE CATCH TRACTION ON THE ALMOST VERTICAL STONE CLIFF-FACE--

--UNTIL, IN SECONDS THE SUPERNATURAL CYCLE SILENTLY BEARS ITS CREATOR BACK OVER THE PRECIPICE...
THERE-- IN THE DISTANCE! I MUST NOT LOSE HIM!
THUS ONE CHASE ENDS...


...WHILE FAR AWAY, AT THE SUBURBAN L.A. APARTMENT OF JOHNNY BLAZE, ANOTHER CHASE IS ABOUT TO END...
HE--HE'S STILL REMIND ME! OH, JOHNNY PLEASE BE HOME!





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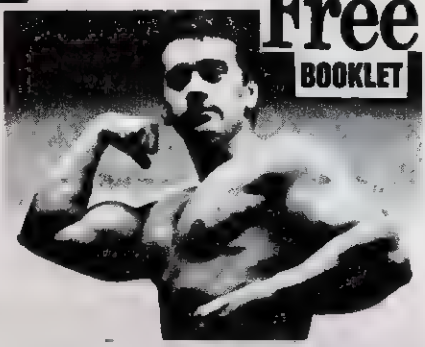
"I have gained 20 pounds in just 30 days and I have gained over 6 inches on my chest. I find that my power has doubled. In sports I am a winner in everything I do." B. Daniels

"I have gained 5" on my arms and 12" on my chest, while losing 3" off my waist. I have tripled my power and speed. Thanks for what you have done for me!" M. Robinson



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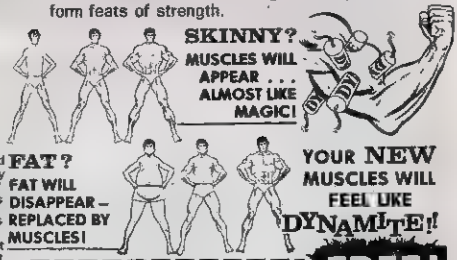
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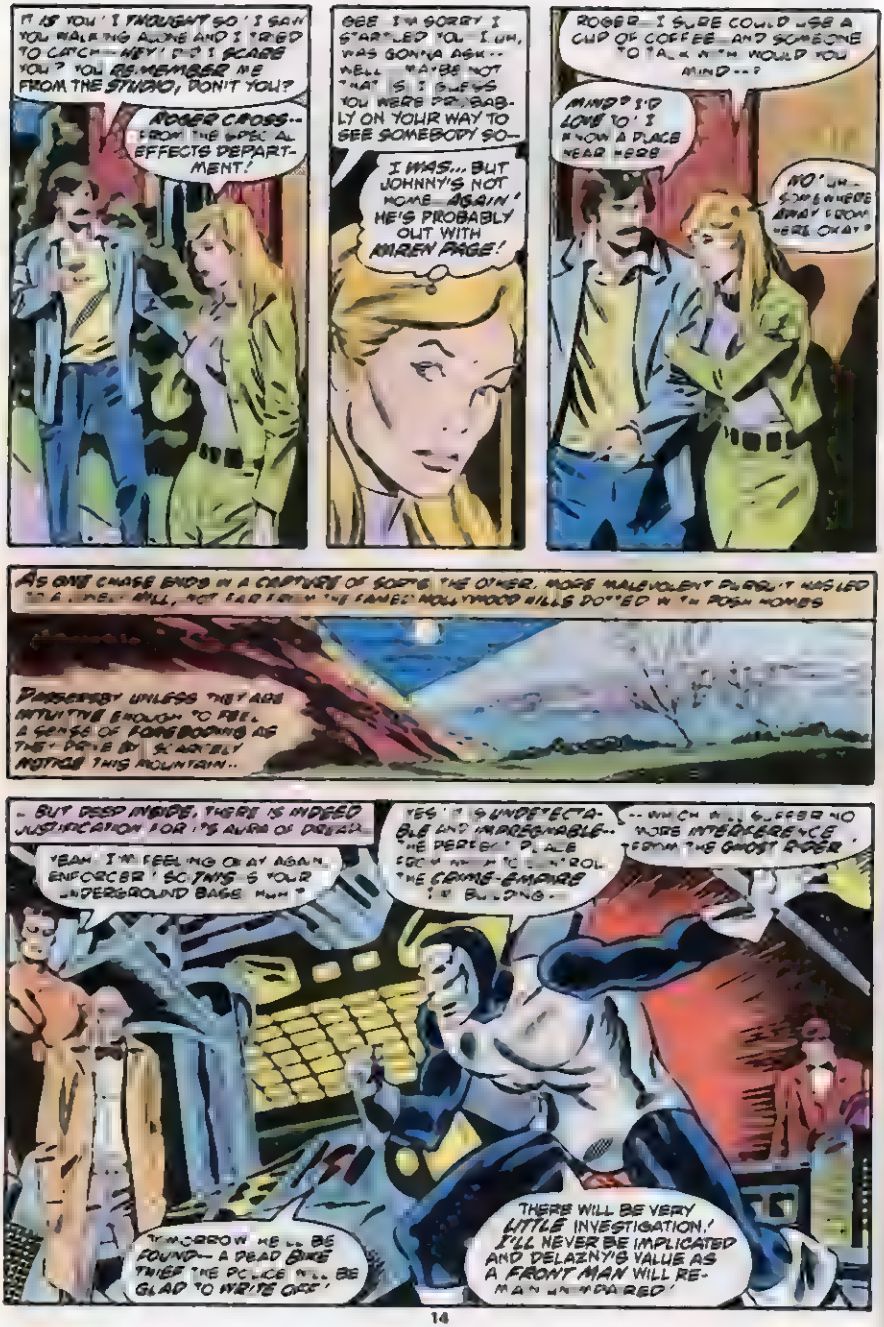
IT IS YOU! I THOUGHT SO! I SAW YOU WALKING ALONE AND I TRIED TO CATCH—HEY! DO I SCARE YOU? YOU REMEMBER ME FROM THE STUDIO, DON'T YOU?
ROGER CROSS--FROM THE SPECIAL EFFECTS DEPARTMENT!
GEE I'M SORRY I STARTLED YOU! I UH, WAS GONNA ASK--WELL MAYBE NOT THAT S! IT LOOKS YOU WERE PROBABLY ON YOUR WAY TO SEE SOMEBODY SO--
I WAS... BUT JOHNNY'S NOT HOME AGAIN! HE'S PROBABLY OUT WITH MIREN PAGE!
ROGER--I SURE COULD USE A CUP OF COFFEE--AND SOMEONE TO TALK WITH WOULD YOU MIND--?
MIND? I'D LOVE TO! I KNOW A PLACE NEAR HERE
NO! UH--SOMEWHERE AWAY FROM HERE, OKAY?
AS ONE CHASE ENDS IN A CAPTURE OF SORTS, THE OTHER, MORE MALEVOLENT PURSUIT HASTENS TO A CLOSE. STILL, NOT EARLIER THAN FAMED HOLLYWOOD HILLS DOTTED WITH POSH HOMES
PROPERTY UNLESS THEY ARE INTUITIVE ENOUGH TO FEEL A SENSE OF FOREBODING AS THEY DRIVE BY. SURELY NOTICE THIS MOUNTAIN..
--BUT DEEP INSIDE, THERE IS INDEED JUSTIFICATION FOR IT'S AURA OF DREAD...
YEAH I'M FEELING OKAY AGAIN, ENFORCER! SO THIS IS YOUR UNDERGROUND BASE, HMM?
YES, IT IS UNDETECTABLE AND IMPREGNABLE--THE PERFECT PLACE FROM WHICH TO CONTROL THE CRIME-EMPIRE I'M BUILDING--
--WHICH WILL SUFFER NO MORE INTERFERENCE FROM THE GHOST RIDER!
TOMORROW HE'LL BE FOUND--A DEAD BIKE THIEF THE POLICE WILL BE GLAD TO WRITE OFF!
THERE WILL BE VERY LITTLE INVESTIGATION! I'LL NEVER BE IMPLICATED AND DELAZNY'S VALUE AS A FRONT MAN WILL REMAIN UNIMPAIRED!

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DELAZNY?
OF COURSE! WE OWN DELAZNY!
DURING THE WORST OF THE RECESSION, HE MADE THE ERROR OF BORROWING HEAVILY FROM RACKETEERS TO KEEP HIS STUDIO ALIVE!
THOSE RACKETEERS ARE NOW UNDER THE HEEL OF THE ENFORCER --AND SO IS DELAZNY!
HIS BUSINESS WILL BE VERY USEFUL--
--FOR LAUNDERING THE TAKE FROM MY UNDERWORLD EMPIRE!
FINE... BUT JUST REMEMBER THAT IT WAS THE WATER WIZARD WHO SENT A THOUSAND LIQUID CREATURES COMBING THE BOTTOM OF SAN DIEGO HARBOR TO FIND THAT PRECIOUS RING OF YOURS!
OF COURSE... AND NOW THAT IT IS MINE AGAIN--
--I INTEND TO USE IT TO ELIMINATE THE ONLY THREAT REMAINING TO US!
OH. THE ONE GUY WHO KNOWS TOO MUCH!
YES IF ANY MAN COULD FIND A WAY TO NULLIFY THE POWER OF THE RING--
--IT'S THE MAN WHO CREATED THE RING!
ME--BUT?
NO! PLEASE! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY! I'LL--
SORRY, PROFESSOR!
DO NOT HARM HIM!

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NO!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
YOUR BELIEF CONCERNS ME NOT, HUMAN
THE GHOST RIDER!
BUT...I SAW YOU DIE!
FOOL, YOU MIGHT HAVE KILLED THE MORTAL, BLAZE, WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE--
--BUT I AM BEYOND YOUR EARTHLY POWER TO DESTROY! I AM A SPIRIT BORN OF HELL--! A VENGEFUL SPIRIT--
--AND MY POWER CAN DESTROY YOU!
H-HE'S COMING CLOSER! WATER WIZARD! HELP ME!
B-BOSS! HE'S FOR REAL!
LET ME OUT OF HERE! K-KEEP HIM AWAY FROM ME!

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ALL RIGHT! I-I'LL FIGHT YOU ALONE! I-I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOUR GIMMICKS!
STILL YOU DOUBT?
WHA--? NOBODY CAN MOVE THAT FAST--
AHH-HT MY WRIST!
FEEL MY GRIP, ENFORCER! IS IT THE GRIP OF A MAN?
CAN FLESH AND BLOOD LIMBS STRIKE THIS HARD?
UHH-H!
WHAK!
HIS STRENGTH... IS INHUMAN! THAT PUNCH... SHOULD HAVE FINISHED ME...
...BUT MY METAL MASK ...BROKE THE IMPACT! NOW--
--NOW WE'LL SEE IF A SPIRIT CAN BE DISINTEGRATED!
ZZZZZZTTT!
WHAT? HE'S NOT DOWN --BUT--

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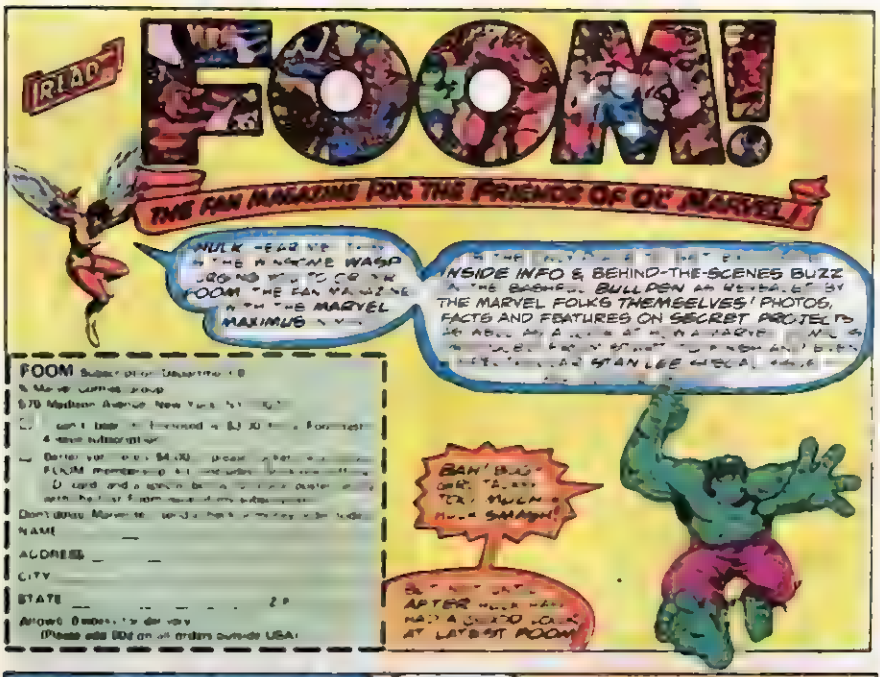
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FOOM!
THE FAN MAGAZINE FOR THE FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL
INSIDE INFO & BEHIND-THE-SCENES BUZZ
BAM! BLAM! OOF! TAKE THAT, YOU MEAN OLD HULK SMASH!
AFTER HULK HAS HAD A GOOD LOOK AT LATEST FOOM

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GHOST WRITERS!

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Skull Scribers,

For a super-hero who's been around more than four years, the Ghost Rider has led a remarkably undistinguished career. He's an anti-social near-maniac who's only recently turned his hell-spawned powers to constructive ends. And even now, he shows a flagrant disregard for the destructive potential of his power. But he is learning, and that, I guess, is good.

The character of Johnny Blaze interests me. Even more than Spider-Man, he's a true loner. Yet now, he works with two different teams: the Champions and the production staff at Delazny Studios. The friction of these arrangements and their effect on Mr. Blaze should be felt for some time to come.

I wonder just how much (if at all) Johnny truly cares for Rocky Simpson. He let her walk out of his life for a year when she thought she had to. There's no question that Rocky loves him, but as for Blaze...well, I just don't know if he's capable of it. Perhaps he feels an obligation to return whatever it is she feels for him. If this is the case, it's not really love.

Dennis Mallonee
4085 Nobel Drive #3, San Diego, CA 92122

The life and loves of Rocky Simpson take on a new wrinkle this very issue, Dennis, though what will ultimately develop is anybody's guess. Be that as it may, thanks for the 13-cent analysis—and for the outline of GR's career that you sent along. Would that we had room to print it.

Dear Marvel,

I've just read GHOST RIDER #22, and I must say that it was Don Heck's best effort yet. I do feel, however, that Keith Pollard—this issue's inker—should be given a chance to handle both the pencils and inks on GR. Keith's been around Marvel so long without a book of his own, and he's such a great artist.

As far as the writing goes, I'm kind of sorry to see Gerry leave. He seemed to have the right idea for GHOST RIDER. However, since he has left, why not put Jim Shooter on the book. He's doing a wonderful job on AVENGERS and DAREDEVIL, and I think he'd be perfect for the book.

Forrest Cargile
115 East Jinkins Circle, Sanford, FL 32771

We think so, too, Forrest. That's why he's writing it.

And we've got to agree with you about the artistic ability of Mr. Pollard. In case you hadn't noticed, he *does* have a book of his own—the ever-uncanny INHUMANS.

Troops.

I approve of the recent changes in GHOST RIDER. Issues #21 and #22 were certainly steps in the right direction. The Gladiator and the Eel were effective, but the Enforcer left something to be desired. Here's hoping that he returns soon so GR can really give him a battle.

Now I have a few questions concerning Ghost Rider's powers:

1. Does GR possess limited super-strength? It has been hinted at in a few appearances, but never fully explained.
2. Can GR create other objects—that is, other than his flame cycle—with his Hell fire?
3. Does he retain any of his former invulnerability? I would guess that if he does, it must be to a limited degree.
4. Is the flame-cycle capable of traveling up steep walls, over the water, and across short distances through the air?
5. Will GR be somehow warned of danger?
6. Can GR absorb ordinary flames?
7. Can he control the temperature of his Hell fire so that it flames but does not burn?

Wallace Hopkins
P.O. Box 428, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Good questions, Wally. We're more than happy to answer them.

1. **Ghost Rider is indeed super-strong. As his intro copy states: "...he still possesses Satan-spawned strength..".**
2. **GR can create other objects out of his flame, but within limits. Tricks like the Hell fire image in issue #22 take quite a bit of concentration. Simple flame barriers are more his speed.**
3. **GR is invulnerable to the extent that he isn't truly human in his supernatural form. As Ghost Rider, he actually *is* a Hellspawn. So, of course, bullets and other such threats can't harm him.**
4. **The flame-cycle can do anything a normal bike can do—and then some. Over water? Hmm...**
5. **Nope.**
6. **No again.**
7. **Yes, indeed! Hell-fire has some bizarre mystic qualities—some of which the Water Wizard learned the hard way—and temperature variance is only one of them.**

Hope that clears thing up for you.

Dear Marvel,

I am writing this letter for my third grade class in appreciation of your magazines. We are writing to Ghost Rider because he was selected your most popular character, by a vote of 10 to 5 against the Incredible Hulk.

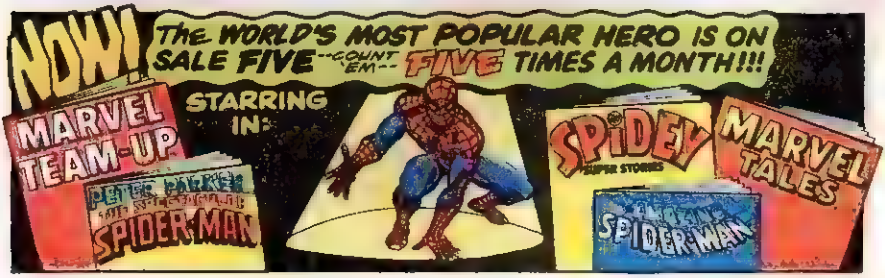
We have instituted a library of strictly Marvel Comics in the back of our room, allowing the children to read any one of your many titles when their regular work is finished. We all (I include myself as a merry Marvel reader since FF #6) thrill to the adventures of Ghost Rider, Hulk, the Avengers, Champions, and all the rest with every issue.

As an educator, I would like to congratulate you. I fully endorse your magazines for use in the classroom.

So until Irving Forbush joins the Inhumans, make *ours* Marvel.

Mr. Monk's Third Grade Class
134 Logan, Kingman, KS 67068

Wow. What can we say? It's not everyday that you beat out the Hulk. We're truly touched, sir. Be sure to give our best to Scott, Kerry, Sela, Tad, Tracy, Adela, Joe, Byron, Jeff, Dayeal, Crystal, Dean, Gretchen, Lori, Loretta, Travis, Joey, Lora, and everyone else in Kingman.



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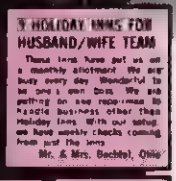

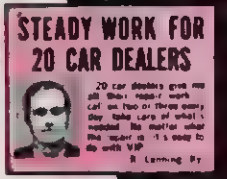

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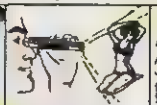

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HMM! HIS RAY BROKE THAT PIPE!
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I'LL SHOW THE ENFORCER I'M TOUGH!
MONSTER! KILL THE GHOST RIDER!

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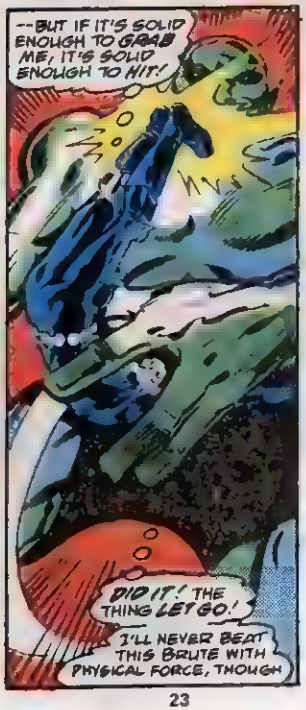
GO! TEAR HIM APART!


--BUT IF IT'S SOLID ENOUGH TO GRAB ME, IT'S SOLID ENOUGH TO HIT!
DID IT! THE THING LET GO!
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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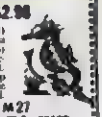

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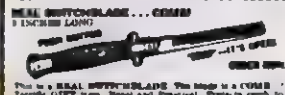

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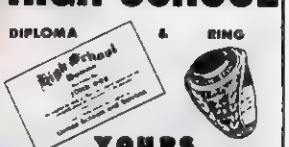
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SSSSSSSSSSSS
WHAT IS MADE OF WATER CAN BE REDUCED TO STEAM BY THE SEARING FLAMES OF HELL!
SSSSSSSS
ANOTHER ONE COMING!
IT'LL BE ON ME BEFORE I FINISH THIS ONE!
IT'S NO GOOD! HE CAN MAKE THEM FASTER THAN I CAN EVAPORATE THEM!
I CAN'T BEAT AN ARMY OF CREATURES!
BUT... I CAN BEAT THE GENERAL!
THE MONSTERS CAN'T BE SENTIENT! WHEN THE WIZARD ISN'T SHOUTING ORDERS THEY MUST BE GUIDED BY SOME SUBCONSCIOUS MIND-LINK!
HE IS THEIR WEAKEST POINT!
NOW, WRETCHED MORTAL--!
WHA--? NO! DON'T TOUCH ME!
CREATURES! PROTECT ME! SMASH HIM!

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HELP--UFF!
WHAM!
CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE THE WIZARD GET UP AGAIN, LIKE THE ENFORCER DID!
UNNNG!
WOK
THERE! HE'S DOWN FOR SURE! NOW I CAN--
OH, NO!
THE MONSTER IS STILL ATTACKING--! STILL FOLLOWING THE WIZARD'S LAST ORDERS!
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! IF THE MIND-LINK IS SUBCONSCIOUS IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT THE WIZARD IS KNOCKED OUT!
CORNERED! HELLFIRE CAN'T WASTE IT BEFORE--WHAT?!
IT'S MELTING AWAY... INTO A PUDDLE!
I GUESS IT COULDN'T STAY SOLID FOR LONG WITHOUT THE CONSCIOUS WILL OF THE WIZARD!
YOU WERE LUCKY, SPOOK!
THE ENFORCER'S RING--BEAM!
ALMOST NAILED ME!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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ZOUNDS! A ZEALFUL ZETETIC OF ZESTFUL ZANIES TO ZAP THE ZEITGEIST!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hang onto your hats, heroes, 'cause here's the sizzling secret we've been sitting on for months! At last we can tell you the dynamite news! From now on, mighty Marvel— and only mighty Marvel— will be bringing you the monthly adventures of TARZAN— as well as JOHN CARTER OF MARS!!! That's right, Charlie! Can you imagine it? All the way-out wonderment of the great Edgar Rice Burroughs masterpieces brought to you by Marvel's most titanic talents! Starting March 22nd, you'll be able to pounce upon the very first TARZAN issue written by Basically ROY THOMAS and drawn by Big JOHN BUSCEMA! Then, while your head's still swimmin', you can also grab JOHN CARTER OF MARS, sensationally scripted by our own Marvelous MARV-WOLFMAN and illustrated through the magic of Garrulous GIL KANE and Daring DAVE COCKRUM! Get to the newsstand early— send for a fast subscription— do it any way you can— but don't dare miss 'em! You'll see all the Burroughs magic as it was always meant to be— Tarzan, swift and strong and savage— John Carter, big and bold and barbarous! Think of it, the very first Marvel issue of each! Museums all around the world are probably already making room to display these historic volumes! Yep, here's your chance to possess a couple of instant heirlooms, and thrill to the kind of pulse-pounding yarns they just aren't writing anymore! TARZAN! JOHN CARTER OF MARS! Brought to you by Marvel! If only I wasn't too shy to really plug 'em! Hey, speaking of plugs— here's another unabashed and unsolicited commercial for one of my favorite mags. In case I haven't told you (lately, that is!), we also produce a merry little masterpiece called CELEBRITY. Within its slick, sleek, and shiny pages each month you'll find photo-bios about the most colorful celebs we know— from Woody Allen to John Travolta to Arnold Schwarzenegger to The Human Fly— you'll find 'em all in a plethora of peppy pictures in my own little fun-mag! CELEBRITY! TARZAN! JOHN CARTER! I know what you're thinking! "Why are we so good to you?" Well, don't bother showering us with gratitude— just go out there and BUY! And, while you're harvesting our cheery little cornucopia of culture, I know you're all saying, "Fiat justitia, ruat caelum!" Or, as Howard the Duck might put it, "Let justice be done, though the heavens fall!"

Excelsior!

Stan

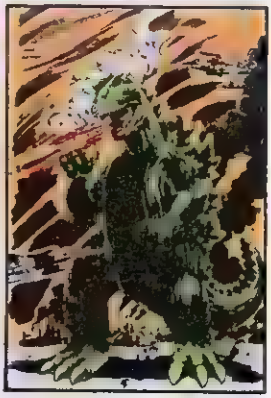
!TEM! The Holiday season will be well behind you by the time you read this, but we're right in the midst of it as these words are being written. So, we'd like to launch this month's Bullpen notes with a very large *thank you* to the many Marvelites kind enough to send us Christmas cards and Seasons Greetings. We love each and every one of them. Sometimes we get so wrapped up in the writing-drawing-producing end of this crazy business, we momentarily forget one of the nicest things about our comics... the people who read them. Thanks again for reminding us with all those tremendous cards!

!TEM! Speaking of Christmas cards, all our staff-and free-lancers are still stunned over the nifty one that Mirthful MARIE SEVERIN distributed among us. It's a detailed drawing of our entire offices and has just about everyone in the whole blamed Bullpen cavorting through it. This has to be one of the wildest works of art since Peter Breughel did his last big medieval crowd scene some several centuries ago. Marie originally did the drawing as a wrap-around cover for FOOM, our fearless fan mag, and if you're one of the lucky subscribers, then you've already seen said work of art gracing your latest issue and know whereof we speak. Perhaps next year, if we do one of our Holiday Treasuries, we can persuade Ms. Severin to let us reprint her momentous masterpiece. Then, of course, the only problem will be getting everyone in the Bullpen not to do anything like dieting, hair-restyling, or extensive orthodontic work that might possibly alter their appearance...

!TEM! Last time around, we laid a hint on you about a new title in the works, namely, "He's green and mean and leaves an imprint on the scene." All those who thought it might be ANGAAR, THE GIANT CELERY STALK WHO WALKED LIKE A MAN get an "A" for imagination... and free psychiatric counseling. No, we were hinting about none other than GODZILLA, the mammoth movie monster whom we think is going to be every bit as big (Ouch!) in comics. In about two months, you'll be able to judge for yourself, as that's when it will be on sale. In the meantime—after some editorial huddling with Artful ARCHIE GOODWIN—writer DOUG MOENCH and artist HERB TRIMPE are pouring their talent, soul, and enthusiasm into the frantic first issue. The series is going to be all original material, not adaptations of any of the movies (though, naturally, we're going to be drawing on the Big G's background from the films), with both brand-new continuing characters as well as some old familiar faces from the mighty Marvel Universe (and just *who* they might be we're going to hold off telling, just to save a few surprises for you). With the new ideas and directions we have for GODZILLA, this just might possibly be *the* fun book of 1877... but don't believe any rumors you hear that the first thing we did was to have art director JOHNNY ROMITA design a costume for the gargantuan one!

!TEM! Just as we were about to deliver this page to the printer, MARV WOLFMAN, deadline conscious as ever, let us know that his wife MICHELE just gave birth to a baby daughter, JESSICA MORGAN (Gee, a wolfgirl!)! Our congratulations to the proud, first-time parents and our love and best wishes to the *three* of you.

!TEM! While we're in a congratulating mood, let's also hear it for Fearless FRANK GIACOIA, whose daughter MARY recently made him a grandfather when she had a daughter of her own. Frank is almost as proud of his new status as we are of his inking on both CAPTAIN AMERICA and our latest hit book, NOVA. We hope you're still doing them when you're a *great*-grandfather, Frank!



!TEM! As a final note, our apologies to BOB PINAHA, CHRIS PADAVANO, and all other members of the FANS OF CENTRAL JERSEY. In an item in our March Bullpen Bulletin on the debut performance of the new "Ballad of Red Sonja" we neglected to mention their aid and contribution to the whole affair's success. (Okay, guys! *Now* will you release Howard the Duck? He's already missed important guest appearances on Face the Nation, David Brinkley's Journal, and Zoo Parade!)

Stan Lee Presents:

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A STRANGE TURN OF FATE HAS BROUGHT A PLETHORA OF MONSTERS UNLEASHED FROM THE ARCHAIC LABORATORY OF THE WIZARD KNOWN AS THE "SORE SIR" CAPTAIN AMERICA TACKLES THE PROBLEM IN A CONFRONTATION THAT LOOKS LIKE A SCENE SET IN THE HOUSE OF MIRRORS.
TAKE THAT AND THAT AND THAT AND THAT...
CAP'S MUSCLES TIGHTEN LIKE STEEL SPRINGS; HIS POWERFUL ARM ACTS LIKE A PISTON AS IT SMASHES THE MULTIPLYING MONSTERS WITH JACKHAMMER FORCE BUT--SMALL GAIN, FOR ONE ADVERSARY IS INSTANTLY REPLACED BY ANOTHER.
THERE'S NO END TO THIS MULTIPLICATION OF MYRIAD, MALEVOLENT MISFITS, IF THEY ATTACK IN A GROUP, MY HOPES WOULD SUBTRACT TO ZILCH.
THE MONSTERS BREAK RANK AND FORM A TIGHT CIRCLE AROUND CAP
WE ARE "THE SORE SIR'S APPRENTICES." HE TELLS US GET CAPTAIN AMERICA--GET CAPTAIN AMERICA
UH. OH! AN ALL OUT ATTEMPT--I MUST USE ALL MY CUNNING AS WELL AS POWER..
DON'T COUNT ME OUT YET GROUP! WHEN I STOP--ONE OF YOU WILL HAVE THIS!
COOOOOH! DELICIOUS HOSTESS® CUP CAKES!!
SHEER WIZARDRY THIS GREAT DEVIL'S FOOD CAKE! I FORSAKE MY OLD MASTER "SORE SIR"
SUCH LOYALTY--HA! NOW I'LL SURROUND THEM!
WE WANT THAT CHOCOLATY ICING, TOO! AND CREAMED FILLING.
FIRST YOU APPRENTICES MUST BE TAUGHT A LESSON IN CITIZENSHIP, THEN ON TO YOUR MENTOR THE "SORE SIR."
MY CIVILIZING BEGINS WITH MASTERFUL HOSTESS CUP CAKES!

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CAN'T STOP DODGING LONG ENOUGH TO GET A GOOD SHOT AT HIM--
ZZZZZZZ
--BUT MAYBE I DON'T HAVE TO HIT HIM!
WHA--? A CREATURE OF FIRE! HOW IN--?
SO...YOU CAN DO THE WATER WIZARD'S NUMBER TOO! MAYBE YOUR POWER IS WITHOUT LIMIT--
--BUT SO IS MINE!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOUR MONSTER! DO YOU HEAR ME?
MY RING CAN DISINTEGRATE ANYTHING!
ANYTHING! INCLUDING ALL YOUR HARRYHAUSEN SPECIAL EFFECTS TRICKS!
GO AHEAD, MAKE MORE OF 'EM! MAKE A THOUSAND! I CAN--
MORTAL FOOL!
HUH? R-RIGHT BEHIND ME--?
NO--UHHGH!
THE FIERY IMAGE DIVERTED YOU--BUT IT IS TO MY FIST YOU FALL!
THE GHOST RIDER'S VENGEANCE IS HIS OWN!

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HE WON'T GET UP AGAIN FOR A WHILE AFTER THAT PUNCH!
NOW LET'S SEE WHO THE MYSTERIOUS ENFORCER IS!
HMM! WELL IT'S NOT THE BUTLER! IN FACT, IT'S NOBODY I RECOGNIZE! BUT --HE'S A LOT YOUNGER THAN I FIGURED!
HE LOOKS LIKE A COLLEGE KID!
HE FERGOT ALL ABOUT ME, WELL, BIG JIM GALTON AIN'T S-SCARED OF HIM! I'LL--
WHAK!
NO! I WON'T LET YOU--
OH...MY!
I WILL NOT HARM--
NO! NO! STAY AWAY PLEASE!
HE'S TERRIFIED OF ME! FEAR IS PROBABLY MY GREATEST WEAPON-- BUT IT'S ALSO MY CURSE!
JOHNNY BLAZE CAN CALL THE POLICE LATER! NOTHING MORE TO DO HERE!
SOON, AN EERIE, GLOWING VEHICLE ROCKETS ALONG THE PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY ONCE AGAIN, LEAVING A BLAZING TRAIL IN ITS WAKE...
...WHICH GOES UNNOTICED BY TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES STROLLING ALONG THE BEACH!
THE END

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